

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL
FILE

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

APR 23 1992

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

In the matter of:)
)
Amendment of Parts 2, 22 and 25)
of the Commission's Rules (CELSAT))
)
For an Allocation of Frequencies and)
Other Rules for a New Nationwide)
Hybrid Space/Ground Cellular Network)
for Personal/Mobile Communications)
Services)

RM-7927 ✓
PP-28

REPLY OF CENTEL CORPORATION

On February 7, 1992, CELSAT, Inc., filed a petition for rulemaking seeking allocation of spectrum for a new satellite and terrestrial service offering both voice and data communications. Three days later, CELSAT filed a request for pioneer's preference covering the same proposal. By public notice, the FCC called for comment on CELSAT's proposals.¹

Pursuant to Section 1.405 of the Rules,² Centel Corporation hereby replies to the opening comments filed in the instant proceeding. Centel agrees with the majority of commenters who recommend that the FCC dismiss the petition and preference request of CELSAT and consider the proposal, if anywhere, within the pending Emerging Technologies rulemaking. In particular, CELSAT's plans to use

¹ Public Notice 22154 (Mar. 9, 1992).

² 47 C.F.R. § 1.405 (1991).

No. of Copies rec'd
List A B C D E

0 + 5

2110-2129 MHz microwave frequencies currently licensed to common carriers impact issues already under evaluation in that rulemaking.

As a large and diversified provider of local exchange telephone and cellular service, Centel is constantly seeking ways to improve its delivery of service to the public. Among other things, Centel offers local exchange and cellular services in a number of communities, and is investigating the potential for meeting consumer needs through various personal communications services (PCS). Although Centel strongly supports expanded personal communication services to the public, we believe CELSAT's request should be dismissed for three reasons.

First, CELSAT's proposals are untimely. As Motorola, American Mobile Satellite, Loral/Qualcomm and TRW pointed out, nearly one year ago, the Commission sought requests to use the radiodetermination satellite spectrum at 1610-1626.5 MHz and 2483.5-2500 MHz.³ Having failed to join that processing group, CELSAT is cut off from further consideration for this spectrum.

Second, CELSAT requests spectrum that both is unavailable and would be inefficiently used. Although CELSAT proposes to use frequencies at 2110-2129 and 2410-2428 MHz, the vast majority of these bands are not now allocated for satellite services and were not so allocated at the recent World Administrative Radio Conference in Spain.⁴ Moreover, even if they were so allocated internationally,

³ Public Notice, 6 F.C.C. Rcd 2083 (1991).

⁴ The WARC allocated frequencies at 2120-2200 MHz for satellite use, but made no allocations at 2410-2428 or 2110-2120 MHz.

CELSAT ignores the fact that its proposals would take one of two 20 MHz paired channels currently heavily used by common carriers -- rendering the other paired channel useless for its intended purposes. As a major licensee in this band, with over 220 microwave links supporting its cellular systems and local exchange operations, Centel and other carriers would be displaced from 40 MHz of spectrum by a system requiring less than 20 MHz. The public interest would not be served by the adoption of such an ill-conceived proposal.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, the CELSAT petition requests the wrong relief. No need exists for initiation of yet another rulemaking examining spectrum near 2 GHz. At present, the FCC is examining PCS techniques in Docket 90-314 and, more importantly, has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of 2 GHz spectrum in the Emerging Technologies proceeding.⁵ If the FCC is to explore CELSAT's plan, it should do so in the context of these existing proceedings and in conjunction with other proposals for innovative spectrum use.⁶ CELSAT's approach, by contrast, would lead to duplicative proceedings and squander Commission resources.

In sum, CELSAT's request is untimely and seeks spectrum not allocated for the uses proposed. Moreover, CELSAT would inefficiently eradicate 40 MHz of existing systems to use only 19 MHz of spectrum. Nor has CELSAT presented any valid reason for the Commission to launch yet another proceeding during the pendency of the

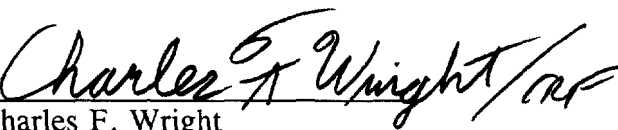
⁵ Use of New Telecommunications Technologies, 7 F.C.C. Rcd 1542 (1992).

⁶ Among other things, that proceeding will address the possibilities of sharing between new technologies and existing services, such as the microwave links CENTEL now operates in this band.

on-going Emerging Technologies docket. For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should dismiss or deny CELSAT's petition and associated pioneer's preference request.

Respectfully submitted,

CENTEL CORPORATION

by: 
Charles F. Wright
of
CENTEL CORPORATION
8725 Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631
(312) 399-2348

April 23, 1992

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 23rd day of April, 1992, I caused copies of the foregoing "Reply of Centel Corporation" to be mailed via first-class postage prepaid mail to the following:

Mr. Victor J. Toth
THE LAW OFFICE OF VICTOR J. TOTH
2719 Soapstone Drive
Reston, Virginia 22091

Elizabeth A. Nicholson
Elizabeth A. Nicholson